

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070843

FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT PARIS 10471 DATED 14 APR 73 SENT ACTION
SECSTATE INFO AMMAN BEIRUT LONDON MOSCOW TEL AVIV CAIRO

QUOTE. C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 10471

E. O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, IS, LE

SUBJ: FRENCH GOVT "DEPLORES" ISRAELI RAID AT BEIRUT

1. AFTER APRIL 13 FRENCH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION, GOF
SPOKESMAN JOSEPH COMITI MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON ISRAELI
ATTACK AGAINST PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS: QUOTE: THE FRENCH
GOVERNMENT DEPLORES THE GRAVE EVENTS IN BEIRUT WHICH HAVE
STRUCK A BLOW AGAINST THE SOVEREIGNTY OF LEBANON, TO WHICH
FRANCE IS ESPECIALLY ATTACHED. THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT
AND THE SPIRAL OF VIOLENCE CAN ONLY BE AGGRAVATED IF NO
PROGRESS IS ACCOMPLISHED TOWARD A SETTLEMENT CONFORMING TO
RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND TAKING ACCOUNT OF
THE SITUATION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THE FRENCH GOVERN-
MENT EXPRESSES ALL ITS SYMPATHY TO THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT
IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. END QUOTE.
2. DURING CALL AT QUAI APRIL 12, EMBOFF DISCUSSED BEIRUT RAID
WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST ROUILLON, WHO STRONGLY
CRITICIZED ISRAELI ACTION AS UNWARRANTED ESCALATION OF STRUGGLE
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AGAINST PALESTINIANS WHICH WOULD ONLY LEAD TO MORE VIOLENCE. EMBOFF NOTED TEL AVIV CLAIM THAT BEIRUT ATTACK WAS IN RESPONSE TO APRIL 9 ATTACK ON ISRAELI AMBASSADOR' S RESIDENCE AND EL- AL PLANE IN NICOSIA AS WELL AS OTHER TERRORIST ACTIONS BY PALESTINIANS IN RECENT WEEKS. EMBOFF EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT ACTS OF TERRORISM, WHICH INCREASINGLY VICTIMIZE INNOCENT CIVILIANS SHOULD BE EQUALLY CONDEMNED WHETHER COMMITTED BY ARABS OR ISRAELIS. IN RESPONSE, ROUILLON SIMPLY REPEATED THAT ISRAELIS HAD GONE TOO FAR IN BEIRUT AFFAIR AND THAT THEIR AGGRESSIVENESS WOULD ONLY WORSEN OVERALL MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. IRWIN

UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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